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Publication date:
2019

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Citation (APA):

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Multi-Scale Three-Dimensional Reconstruction of Ptychographic X-Ray Tomography Data

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Introduction

Ability to image volumetric structure of nano/microscale systems in material science brings a better understanding of the structure-function correlations that can significantly increase their performance in applied fields. Direct 3D reconstruction from coherent diffraction X-ray imaging (CDI) data requires large computational recourses. Therefore, we present here a multi-scale approach for reducing convergence time by fast reconstruction of low-resolution image and its further application as an input guess for high-resolution reconstruction.

Coherent X-ray diffraction imaging

In CDI experiment an incident wave interacts with a sample experiencing refraction and attenuation and propagates into a far-field detector that measures its intensity given by

\[ I(x) = \mathcal{F} \left\{ P \ast \exp \left( i k \cdot n \right) \right\}^2 \]

where \( P \) is illumination function, \( n \) is complex refractive index of the sample (object function) and \( \mathcal{F} \) is Fourier transformation.

Phase-retrieval algorithm

Reconstruction of the sample can be formulated as a least-squares optimization problem solved by iterative minimization of the difference between measured and approximated diffraction intensities:

\[ \min_x \left( I^m(x) - I^r(x) \right)^2 \]

Complex valued object function and squared modulus operation in the expression for intensity make the problem ill-posed and non-linear. Here, we use Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm (LMA) in combination with conjugate gradient method (CGM) to find the optimal solution.

Acknowledgments

This PhD project is part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network MUMMERING (Multiscale, Multimodal, Multidimensional imaging for EngineeRING), funded through the EU research programme Horizon 2020.

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